

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 214985

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QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 214985

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, GW

SUBJECT: FRG VIEWS ON NON-PROLIFERATION ISSUES

1. CONVERSATION BETWEEN FRG DISARMAMENT COMMISSIONER ROTH AND ACDA DIRECTOR IKLE SEPT 27 DEALT LARGELY WITH NON-PROLIFERATION ISSUES (REPORT ON DISCUSSION OF MBFR VERIFICATION SENT SEPTTEL). ROTH SAID THAT HE SUPPORTED BRITISH PROPOSAL, ADVANCED BY UK FCO ASSISTANT UNDERSECRETARY THOMSON, FOR ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL COMMITTEE IN IAEA CONTEXT TO EXAMINE PNE QUESTIONS. ROTH INDICATED THAT FRG HAS SO FAR TAKEN NO POSITION ON SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP OR ON DATE FOR CONVENING COMMITTEE. AMONG THE POSSIBILITIES ARE A COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF IAEA BOARD MEMBERS, AN AD HOC GROUP DRAWN FROM BOARD MEMBERS, AND AN AD HOC GROUP OF IAEA MEMBERS INTERESTED IN PNE'S. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT PNE PANEL MEETINGS, SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY, MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE FORUM, BUT LATER EXPRESSED DOUBTS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 214985

THAT PANEL'S TERMS OF REFERENCE AND COMPOSITION WOULD BE

BROAD ENOUGH.

2. ROTH SHARED UK VIEW THAT SPECIAL PNE COMMITTEE SHOULD NOT DEAL EXCLUSIVELY WITH TECHNICAL QUESTIONS, BUT SHOULD ADDRESS BROAD RANGE OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND LEGAL ISSUES AFFECTING FEASIBILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF PNE'S. HE ALSO FELT THAT COMMITTEE SHOULD INCLUDE STATES NOT PARTY TO NPT WHICH HAVE ASSERTED RIGHT OF NON-NUCLEAR

WEAPON STATES TO DEVELOP PNE'S, SUCH AS ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, AND INDIA, AND THAT ESTABLISHING COMMITTEE IN IAEA CONTEXT WAS FAR MORE PROMISING THAN DOING SO UNDER UN AUSPICES. THOMSON'S HOPE IN ESTABLISHING SPECIAL COMMITTEE WITH BROAD MANDATE, ROTH CONFIDED, WAS TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPOSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH PNE'S AND EVENTUALLY TO DAMPEN INTERNATIONAL INTEREST IN THEM. ROTH COMMENTED THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY SYMPATHETIC WITH THIS MOTIVATION, BUT DOUBTED THAT SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS WOULD HAVE THAT EFFECT. IKLE STATED THAT US WOULD GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

3. ROTH STATED THAT, DESPITE RECENT CALLS FOR MORE RAPID IMPLEMENTATION OF NPT ARTICLE FIVE, FRG GOVERNMENT WAS GROWING INCREASINGLY SKEPTICAL ABOUT BENEFITS OF PNE'S. TECHNICAL COMMUNITY IN GERMANY HAD CONCLUDED THAT PNE'S ON FRG TERRITORY WOULD NOT BE ADVISABLE OR USEFUL. QUESTION OF POSSIBLE ECONOMIC UTILITY FOR OTHER NON-NUCLEAR STATES HAD TO BE WEIGHED AGAINST POLITICAL AND LEGAL FACTORS, SUCH AS COMPATABILITY WITH LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY AND NON-PROLIFERATION OBJECTIVES. WHILE GERMAN FEASIBILITY STUDY INDICATED THAT USE OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS IN QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT COULD SAVE

THIRTY PERCENT OF COSTS COMPARED TO CONVENTIONAL METHODS, FRG GOVT DID NOT BELIEVE IT WAS DESIRABLE TO BUILD CANAL WITH PNE'S. NONETHELESS, IF OTHER INTERESTED STATES DECIDED TO PURSUE PROJECT FURTHER, FRG WOULD WISH TO CONTINUE IN ITS CONSULTING ROLE.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 214985

4. ROTH NEXT REPORTED ON RECENT CONVERSATION HE HAD HAD WITH SETHNA, HEAD OF INDIAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION. SETHNA HAD ASSURED HIM THAT INDIAN POLICY WITH RESPECT TO NUCLEAR SUPPLIES TO OTHER COUNTRIES WAS VERY RESTRICTIVE. IN RESPONSE TO ROTH'S QUESTION WHETHER INDIA WOULD BE WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS IN ESTABLISHING UNIFORM EXPORT PRACTICES AND CONTROLS, SETHNA SAID THAT, FOR TIME BEING, THE ANSWER WAS „NO“.

BUT THAT IN LONGER RUN THIS WOULD DEPEND ON POLICIES OF OTHER SUPPLIERS. FROM THIS, ROTH RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE MIGHT BE FLEXIBILITY IN INDIAN POSITION AND SUGGESTED TO IKLE THAT QUESTION OF SUPPLIER COUNTRY COOPERATION MIGHT USEFULLY BE PURSUED FURTHER WITH INDIANS.

5. BOTH ROTH AND IKLE REMARKED ON IMPORTANCE OF INVOLVING FRENCH IN NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORTS. ROTH INDICATED THAT

THE FRG WOULD BE CONSULTING WITH FRENCH IN MID-OCTOBER ON RANGE OF SECURITY ISSUES AND WOULD TAKE OPPORTUNITY TO TRY TO ENLIST FRENCH SUPPORT FOR COORDINATED NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY. HE PROMISED TO INFORM US OF RESULTS OF CONSULTATIONS. INGERSOLL UNQUOTE

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